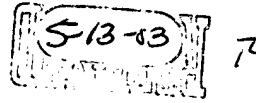


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accessed by a head for recording/reproducing information with respect to the disc; and
connecting means for connecting the disc and the disc cover,
wherein a side of the disc, which is opposite to the side of the disc covered by the
disc cover, is exposed externally.

21. (Amended) A disc drive for using a disc cartridge, which includes (a) a disc in a
disc shape, including a recording layer for recording/reproducing information, (b) a disc
cover for covering at least a surface for recording/reproducing, which is accessed by a
head for recording/reproducing information with respect to the disc, and (c) connecting
means for connecting the disc and the disc cover, wherein a side of the disc, which is
opposite to the side of the disc covered by the disc cover, is exposed externally, the disc
drive comprising:

the head for recording/reproducing with respect to the disc; and
separating means for separating the disc and the disc cover, so as to allow the
head to be inserted between the disc and disc cover so that the recording/reproducing
is performed.

24. (Amended) A disc drive for using a disc cartridge, which includes (a) a disc in a
disc shape, including a recording layer for recording/reproducing information, (b) a disc
cover for covering at least a surface for recording/reproducing, which is accessed by a
head for recording/reproducing information with respect to the disc, (c) connecting
means for connecting the disc and the disc cover, and (d) a shutter, being provided on
the disc cover, for switching over whether the disc is exposed or unexposed, wherein a
side of the disc, which is opposite to the side of the disc covered by the disc cover, is
exposed externally, the disc drive comprising:

the head for recording/reproducing with respect to the disc; and
shutter opening/closing means for opening/closing the shutter,
wherein the head is moved close to the disc that is exposed through the shutter opened
by the shutter opening/closing means, so that the recording/reproducing is performed.